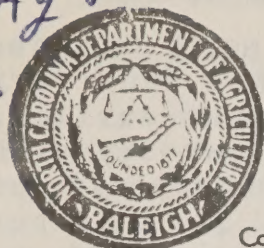


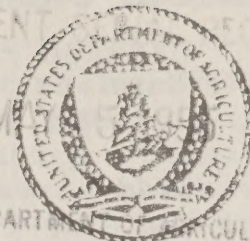
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NORTH CAROLINA



Cooperative Crop Reporting Service



NO. 182

RALEIGH, N. C.

APRIL 18, 1955

RECORD FREEZE CAUSES SEVERE DAMAGE

The highlight of the current season is the devastation caused by the severe freeze which struck the state during the last week end of March, bringing record low temperatures on the dates of March 26 and 27, with freezing temperatures for several consecutive days. Temperatures throughout the state were in the low 20's or below.

Tree fruits were, for all intents and purposes, completely destroyed. Apple growers have expressed little hope that any appreciable quantities of apples will be produced in the state this year. Peaches were wiped out, as were pears, plums, and some other fruits and berries. Pecans are believed to have been badly damaged, but it is still too early to determine how serious is the damage to this crop.

Small grains have undoubtedly been hurt but, here again, it is somewhat early to determine the extent of damage.

Tobacco plant beds are reported to have been damaged to some extent by the freezing temperatures, but most beds have been fairly well protected and it is believed that there will not be any serious shortage of plants to go to the fields.

Pastures were making excellent growth immediately preceding the freeze, but because of the low temperatures pasture grasses were badly burned. Some two to three weeks will perhaps be required for pastures to recover their losses. Many of the pasture crops were undoubtedly killed and will result in reduced stands.

Potatoes which were above the ground were, of course, killed back. Although plants will undoubtedly come back, considerable loss, both in tonnage and in quality, is expected. Strawberry harvest

(See "FREEZE" Page 2)

RECORD N. C. MILK PRODUCTION DURING MARCH

Estimated milk production on farms in North Carolina during March totaled 133 million pounds -- the highest March output of record. Production during the month was seasonally higher by 12 million pounds than production during February and was 1 million pounds above that of March 1954. A further comparison shows that the March flow was nearly 13 percent greater than the 1944-53 average for the month.

The number of milk cows in herds, both dry and milking, during the month was estimated at about 369,000 head. The number during March 1954 was estimated at 381,000.

The April 1 rate of feeding grains, millfeeds and other concentrates per milk cow in herds owned by North Carolina crop reporters averaged about 6.0 pounds. This compares with 6.2 pounds on April 1, 1954 and with the 10-year April 1 average of 5.4 pounds.

Production of milk on U. S. farms
(See "MILK" Page 4)

MARCH EGG PRODUCTION BELOW LAST YEAR

Egg production in North Carolina during March is estimated at 150 million. Production during the month was about 27 percent above the 118 million laid during February but about 4 percent below the March high record of 156 million reached last year. The number of layers on hand during the month at 8,498,000 and the average rate

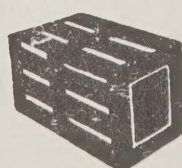
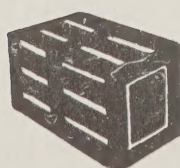
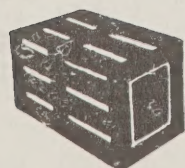
(See "EGG PRODUCTION" Page 4)

FREEZE DAMAGES TRUCK CROPS

CABBAGE - LATE SPRING (East): North Carolina cabbage growers indicate they planted 2,400 acres for late spring harvest -- 8 percent above last year's harvested acreage. Reports indicate that the crop is in only fair to poor condition due to the late March freeze. Dry soil conditions following the freeze have cut yield prospects even more and have further retarded the crop which is expected to mature about two weeks later than usual.

STRAWBERRIES: The late March freeze damaged the strawberry crop in N. C. severely and condition of the crop is currently poor. The freeze killed practically all small buds, blooms and small fruit set on the plants at the time it came and, as a result, the crop has been retarded at least two weeks. The freeze damage and lack of moisture immediately following the cool weather have reduced yield prospects considerably and current conditions point to an average yield of 40 crates per acre. This compares with a yield of 85 crates last year. The reduction in yield along with a slight acreage decrease points to a production of 60,000 crates for N. C.; this would be 75,000 crates below the 1954 production.

LETTUCE: As of April 1, the N. C. lettuce crop was generally in poor condition due to the freeze of March 26-27 and there was a wide range in growth progress. Near mature fields and recently set fields were most adversely affected. The crop has been delayed considerably and current prospects indicate a production of 60,000 crates which is only half of last year's production and about two-fifths of normal.



N. C. FARM WAGE RATES

Wage rates paid by North Carolina farmers on April 1, 1955 show very little change from a year earlier.

The average rate per day with house at \$4.25 was 10 cents above the April 1, 1954 average. The rate per day without board or room remained unchanged at \$5.00.

The hourly rate without board or room decreased slightly and the rate with house was unchanged.

FARM WAGE RATES, N. C. AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES

AREA AND CLASSIFICATION	April 1 1954	April 1 1955
<u>NORTH CAROLINA</u>		<i>DOLLARS</i>
Per Day;		
With House.....	4.15	4.25
Without Board Or Room	5.00	5.00
Per Hour :		
With House.....	.50	.50
Without Board Or Room	.60	.59
<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES</u>		
Per Day:		
With House.....	4.15	4.25
Without Board Or Room	4.85	4.95
Per Hour:		
With House.....	.56	.56
Without Board Or Room	.65	.65

FREEZE (Continued From Page 1)

was scheduled to get under way within ten days or two weeks. All berries and blossoms were destroyed, with the result that harvest will not begin before late April or early May. Yields on the crop will undoubtedly be reduced. Cabbage heads were frozen, and heavy loss has undoubtedly resulted. Stands of snap beans and cucumbers were killed, thus necessitating replanting with a delay in harvest dates.

Rainfall during the period immediately preceding the freeze was quite frequent and heavy. At the time of the freeze, therefore, most soils had an abundant supply of moisture. Heavy winds which accompanied and preceded the freeze rapidly depleted surface moisture.

INCOME FROM POULTRY AND EGGS DOWN IN 1954.

RECORD PRODUCTION DURING YEAR

Combined gross income from commercial broilers, farm chickens, and eggs produced in N. C. totaled around 100 million dollars during 1954, or about 7.5 percent less than the 108 million dollars realized in 1953. (Gross income includes cash receipts from sales plus the value of quantities consumed in the farm household). Despite the record 58 million commercial broilers produced during 1954, gross income from this source dropped below the previous year's level. Likewise, a record 1.4 billion eggs produced in the State last year failed to bring in the amount of income realized in 1953. (See tables on this page).

N. C. COMMERCIAL BROILER PRODUCTION AND GROSS INCOME

YEAR	PRODUCED		PRICE	GROSS
	NUMBER	POUNDS	PER LB.	IN-COME 1/
	THOUSANDS		CENTS	THOUS. DOL.
1950	28,109	78,705	26.3	20,699
1951	32,606	91,297	27.9	25,472
1952	43,366	121,425	28.4	34,485
1953	50,738	147,140	26.3	38,698
1954	58,349	169,212	22.4	37,903

1/ Includes consumption in households of producers.



EGGS: FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, CASH RECEIPTS AND GROSS INCOME, N. C. 1950 - 1954

YEAR	Eggs Produced	Used For Farm Hatching	Consumed In Farm Household	Eggs Sold	Price Per Dozen	Cash Receipts	Value Eggs Consumed on Farms	Gross Income
	-- MILLIONS --				CENTS	-- THOUSAND DOLLARS --		
1950	1,266	6	316	944	40.0	31,467	10,533	42,000
1951	1,229	5	297	927	53.0	40,943	13,118	54,061
1952	1,296	4	297	995	47.0	38,971	11,633	50,604
1953	1,337	4	297	1,036	51.8	44,721	12,820	57,541
1954	1,426	3	297	1,126	44.0	41,287	10,890	52,177

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION, CASH RECEIPTS AND GROSS INCOME FROM CHICKENS

ITEMS	UNIT	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Raised 1/.....	Thousand Head	17,549	18,251	18,981	16,513	17,008
Lost 2/.....	Thousand Head	2,355	2,603	2,677	2,717	3,101
Produced 3/.....	Thousand Head	15,194	15,648	16,304	13,796	13,907
Change in Inventory 4/.....	Thousand Head	1	354	-400	56	34
Consumed in Farm Household.....	Thousand Head	8,992	8,992	8,812	8,283	8,780
Sold.....	Thousand Head	6,201	6,302	7,892	5,457	5,093
Produced.....	Thousand Pounds	57,582	57,629	58,915	53,245	52,558
Consumed in Farm Household.....	Thousand Pounds	29,674	29,674	28,198	27,334	28,974
Sold.....	Thousand Pounds	27,904	26,468	32,357	25,648	23,428
Price Per Pound..	Cents	22.4	25.9	23.1	22.9	19.4
Cash Receipts....	Thousand Dollars	6,250	6,855	7,474	5,873	4,545
Value of Chickens Consumed.....	Thousand Dollars	6,647	7,686	6,514	6,259	5,621
Gross Income.....	Thousand Dollars	12,897	14,541	13,988	12,132	10,166

1/ Does not include young chickens lost or commercial broilers.

2/ Loss during the year of chickens on hand January 1.

3/ Chickens sold, plus consumed in household of farm producers and change in inventory.

4/ Change in inventory numbers during the year.

EGG PRODUCTION (Cont From Page 1)

of lay at 17.6 eggs per hen were both below March of last year.

U. S. farm flocks laid 6.6 billion eggs in March -- 1 percent less than in March last year, but 3 percent above the 1944-53 average. The rate of egg production in March was 17.9 eggs per layer, compared with 18.4 last year and the average of 17.1 eggs. The Nation's farm flock averaged 367 million layers during March -- 2 percent more than in March last year, but 2 percent below the 1944-53 average.

COTTON GINNED IN NORTH CAROLINA 1953-1954

COUNTY	NUMBER RUNNING BALES*	
	1953	1954**
Anson.....	15,112	9,061
Bertie.....	6,997	5,962
Bladen.....	2,991	2,430
Cabarrus.....	3,202	2,772
Catawba.....	2,429	1,814
Chowan.....	3,823	2,440
Cleveland.....	42,705	23,915
Cumberland....	12,982	10,683
Duplin.....	4,128	3,563
Edgecombe.....	8,360	9,824
Franklin.....	5,227	4,974
Gaston.....	1,266	871
Gates.....	2,382	1,477
Greene.....	1,830	1,987
Halifax.....	23,949	19,541
Harnett.....	23,041	21,140
Hertford.....	5,608	4,162
Hoke.....	12,282	8,186
Iredell.....	8,868	7,242
Johnston.....	16,815	18,388
Lee.....	2,695	2,638
Lenoir.....	2,382	1,616
Lincoln.....	10,283	5,657
Mecklenburg...	7,253	6,663
Nash.....	11,617	12,436
Northampton...	27,489	18,602
Perquimans....	1,693	1,421
Pitt.....	10,124	9,029
Polk.....	2,801	1,738
Richmond.....	3,390	3,184
Robeson.....	51,405	45,795
Rowan.....	4,278	3,733
Rutherford....	9,174	5,140
Sampson.....	22,552	20,824
Scotland.....	17,893	19,247
Stanly.....	2,920	2,290
Union.....	17,222	14,028
Wake.....	4,349	3,842
Warren.....	5,406	5,435
Wayne.....	12,282	12,001
Wilson.....	8,838	10,606
All Other.....	24,044	18,723
STATE TOTAL...	464,087	385,080

* Linters not included.

** Preliminary.

MILK (Continued From Page 1)

during March totaled 10.4 billion pounds -- 2 percent below last year's record output, but otherwise the highest March production in 31 years of record. Production conditions during the first three weeks of March were quite favorable with normal or above temperatures over most of the country, but in late March the weather turned unseasonably cold. Liberal grain and concentrate feeding in all parts of the country helped boost milk output per cow and fair pasture feed was available in the South up till the late March freeze. Milk production in the first three months of 1955 totaled 28.4 billion pounds, one half billion pounds or 2 percent below the record January-March output last year.

U. S. LIVESTOCK AND

MEAT SITUATION REVIEWED

Prospects for more pork and at least as much beef in 1955 as last year are indicated by the report of the inventory of livestock on farms January 1. Cattle production and cattle prices will likely continue at roughly the 1954 levels. Prices of hogs will be lower than last year.

Since as many cows and a few more young slaughter stock are on farms, cattle slaughter and beef output in 1955 may be fully as large as last year. However, the level will depend partly on other conditions, particularly the weather. Prices of all kinds of cattle in late February were above their low points reached in 1953 and 1954. As demand for meat continues strong, prices of beef and cattle in 1955, while not likely to continue their uptrend, may hold at about last year's average level.

Hog production is on an increase. Output of pork, at a 13-year low in 1954, will total about 8 percent larger in 1955. Prices of hogs depressed during the winter, may start a gradual recovery in weeks ahead. A substantial seasonal advance is likely this spring. However, even at their seasonal high about mid-summer prices will remain below last year.

The number of all sheep and lambs on farms January 1 was 1 percent less than last January. Fewer lambs were on feed, and the number of ewes also was down slightly.

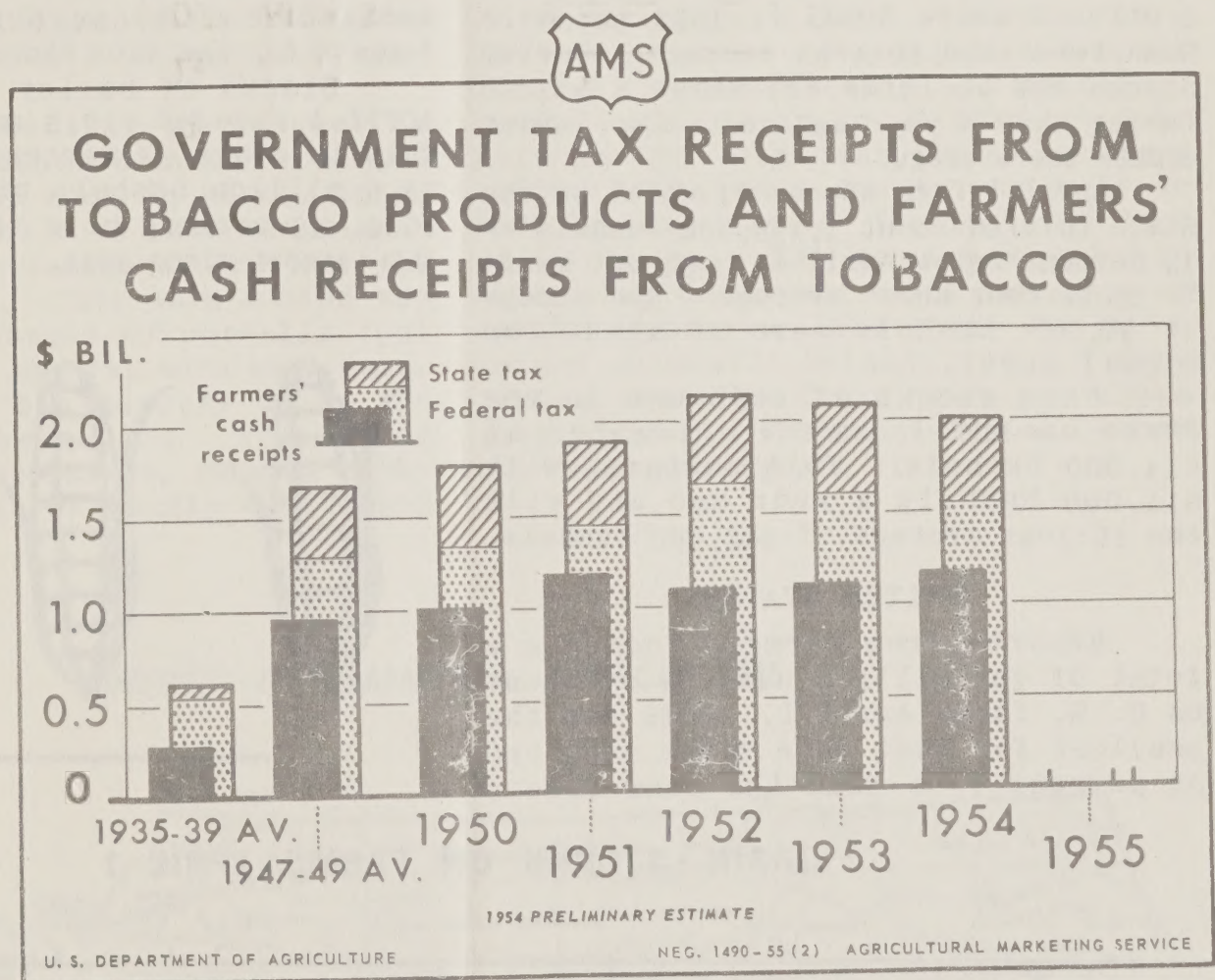
U. S. SUPPLY OF SOYBEANS TO REMAIN HIGH

Record supplies dominate the outlook for soybeans this spring and summer and prices are not likely to show their usual seasonal strength. Exports for the first 5 months of the 1954-55 marketing year were above any other year but crushings were small in relation to the record large crop. About 175 million bushels will be available in March-September 1955 for crushing, exports and ending stocks. This is about 13 percent more than the previous peak in 1950.

The intentions report of March 18 gave the following indication as to

1955 acreage:

Soybean plantings to be up 7 percent from last year's record level. A substantial increase is reported in the North Central States, the principal soybean producing area. In general, the increase is in those areas that had good yields last year. At the time farmers reported their intentions to plant, the 18 cent per bushel drop in the support price for the 1955 crop had not yet been announced. This may cause some revision in growers' intentions.



Federal and State tax collections from tobacco products in 1954 at near 2,020 million dollars were 3/4 more than cash receipts to growers from leaf tobacco. The decline in cigarette consumption mainly accounted for 1954 tobacco taxes dropping 4 percent from 1953 and 6 percent from the record 1952 figure. Growers grew and delivered more tobacco in 1954 than in 1953

and their cash receipts at about 1,160 million dollars were 6 percent more than a year earlier. Under existing law, the Federal tax of 8 cents per pack of 20 cigarettes automatically reverts to 7 cents per pack (the pre-November 1951 rate) on April 1, 1955, but the President has recommended that Congress extend the 8-cent tax rate for another year.

N. C. FARM STOCKS OF CORN LOWEST SINCE 1933

At 16,660,000 bushels, estimated April 1 stocks of corn on farms in N. C. were the lowest for the date since 1933. A further comparison shows that farm stocks of this important feed grain at the beginning of the quarter were 16 percent below those of a year earlier and were 38 percent below the 1944-53 April 1 average. Because of the severe drought last year, production of corn was the lowest since 1942, thus accounting for the short supply on Tar Heel farms at this time.

Farm stocks of oats at 3,671,000 bushels and barley stocks at 368,000 bushels on April 1 were fortunately the highest of record for the date, thus, partially offsetting the feed grain deficit created by the shortage of corn. Present farm stocks of oats are about 6 percent above April 1, 1954 and more than twice the 1944-53 average. Barley stocks now on farms are about a fourth larger than a year ago and, also, about double the average.

April 1 farm stocks of wheat in the State totaled about 1,190,000 bushels -- 12 percent below April 1, 1954 but nearly 14 percent above average. Rye stocks at 27,000 bushels were at about the normal level.

Farm stocks of soybeans in the State on April 1 were estimated at 614,000 bushels. This compares with 611,000 bushels a year ago and with the 10-year average of 843,000 bushels.

UNITED STATES

Reports from farmers indicate a total of 208 million bushels of wheat on U. S. farms April 1. This was the smallest for that date since 1952 and 30 percent less than the near-record

farm holdings of 297 million bushels last year.

Corn holdings on farms -- 1,410 million bushels on April 1 -- were 4 percent smaller than a year earlier, but 12 percent above average.

Oats stocks on farms in the Nation on April 1 are estimated at 553 million bushels. These are the largest farm stocks as of this date in recent years and have been exceeded only in two other years of record.

Soybean stocks on farms April 1 are estimated at nearly 115 million bushels, the largest of record for April 1. This compares with the low stocks of 37.3 million bushels on farms a year ago and the 10-year average of 42 million bushels.

Farm stocks of rye on April 1 are estimated at 7,654,000 bushels, the largest for the date since 1944.

Stocks of barley on U. S. farms April 1 totaled 117.5 million bushels. This is about 56 percent more than the 75.5 million bushels on farms April 1, 1954, 49 percent more than average and the largest since 1943.



GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS APRIL 1

CROP	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	Average 1944-53	1954	1955	Average 1944-53	1954	1955
-- THOUSAND BUSHELS --						
Corn	26,709	19,810	16,660	1,262,812	1,473,745	1,410,006
Wheat	1,046	1,351	1,190	216,962	296,598	207,920
Oats	1,814	3,468	3,671	487,977	447,253	553,252
Barley	183	297	368	78,657	75,531	117,470
Rye	28	17	27	4,135	5,467	7,654
Soybeans	843	611	614	42,330	37,312	114,776

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR MARCH 1955

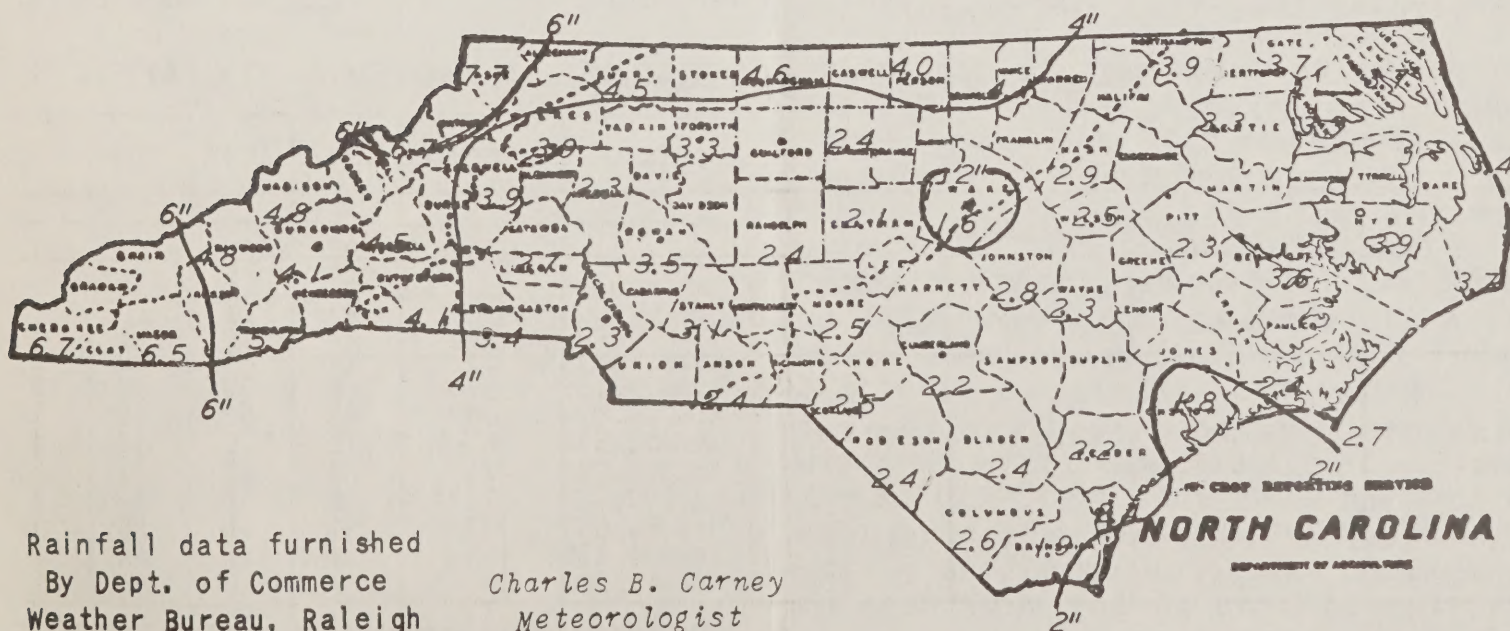
The weather of March, 1955, may be divided roughly into three approximately equal periods. The first third of the month was windy, warm, and relatively dry; the second third was windy, mild, and damp; the last ten days were windy and dry -- mild at first, but turning severely cold during the final week. The presence of windiness in all three periods was a big factor in the general violence of March weather. There was destructively windy weather in all three periods, and tornadoes were reported in at least three places. In addition, hailstones of sufficient size to damage roofs fell in a number of sections. The greatest destruction, however, was brought in on the winds of the final weekend; a severe cold wave which, following unusually warm weather, blasted the life out of all vulnerable vegetation.

Some of the warmest weather in early March weather history occurred during the first week in March, 1955, when temperatures rose into the eighties for two consecutive afternoons, the 4th and the 5th. This warm period was followed by a couple of normally cool days; then came several more warm days, again bringing the mercury up to the eighties in some places. Normal ups and downs of temperature, ranging within a few degrees of longterm averages

for the time of year, marked the remainder of the month up through the 25th. Then, on the 26th, an unprecedented cold wave struck all the State, and freezing weather occurred on all the remaining five days. Averaging out the heat and the cold, March temperatures come out somewhat above normal, but it is the cold weather of the final week that will be remembered.

Over the greater part of North Carolina, March, 1955, brought more rainy days and less total rainfall than any March of the past several years. In some places measurable rain fell on as many as twenty of the thirty-one days, with a total precipitation still less than normal. Light rain fell in most parts of the State on about four of the first ten days of March; then followed ten or more days with daily rainfall in practically all sections. Amounts ranged up to an inch on some days in the mountains, but elsewhere seldom exceeded a quarter or half an inch in most areas. The last ten days of March were dry over most of the State, but there were again some showers in the Mountains. The total for March ranged generally between two and four inches over the State, but ran above four inches in the Mountains and along the central Virginia line.

INCHES OF RAINFALL, MARCH 1955



FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Agricultural Estimates Division
S. R. Newell, Director

Published by
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Statistics
L. Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Released semi-monthly through the
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
Henry L. Rasor, Statistician in Charge

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FREEZE DESTROYS PEACH CROP

The severe freezes on the nights of March 26 and March 27 virtually destroyed the North Carolina peach crop. It was in only a few well protected areas that growers on April 1 expected to harvest any fruit at all. The crop in the main commercial areas of the State is reported to have been completely destroyed. For the State as a whole, the April 1 condition of only 2 percent of normal compared with 73 percent on April 1 last year and 79 percent the 10-year average for that date. Prior to the freeze a good crop was in prospect for this year.

Damage was not restricted to North Carolina, but for the 10 Southern States as a whole this year's crop will be almost a complete failure. The April 1 condition for these states was also only 2 percent compared with the 10-year average of 72 percent. The 10 Southern States and California are the principal source of fresh peaches during June and July. Although condition of the California crop is not published on

April 1, this crop is reported to have received considerable damage from low temperature on April 2.

In addition to loss of this year's crop, the freeze caused considerable damage to new growth on peach trees over much of the Southern area. The effect of this damage on future crops is still uncertain. Some loss of trees, weakened by the freeze is expected.

PEACHES CONDITION ON APRIL 1

STATE	Average 1944-53	1952	1953	1954	1955
-- PERCENT --					
N.C.....	79	87	87	73	2
S.C.....	75	82	75	71	1
Ga.....	73	74	85	79	1
Fla.....	67	69	85	50	15
Ala.....	66	78	82	72	1
Miss.....	67	72	79	40	4
Ark.....	71	61	87	41	2
La.....	71	68	79	42	5
Okla.....	61	43	79	25	3
Texas....	63	39	65	18	4
10 States	72	72	80	61	2